Introductory Lecture

on the

Certainty of

Medicine.

Delivered Novr 2nd 1795

& Novr 28th 1798

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Gentlemen /

The Uncertainty of medicine ~~has been~~ is a very common subject of complaint. It has been propagated by the enemies of our profession, ~~philosophers~~, and in many instances has been admitted by Physicians. The design of the present lecture is to inquire how far the complaint ~~into the truth of~~ is founded in truth, and to shew that it originates in ~~ignorance~~ a want of a due conception of the extent & usefulness of the science of medicine. ~~and in~~

In speaking upon this subject we are first led to remark ~~mention~~ that immense number of truths ~~attainments~~ ~~which~~

v i all the different states of
fever. I shall mention in this
place, ~~only three~~ but two of them which
when left to themselves ~~generally~~ generally
~~often~~ prove fatal, but which in 99
cases out on 100 yield to medi-
-cine. These are the pleurisy - the
Dysentery. ~~& the intermitting fever.~~ common

have been ~~made~~ discovered & established in all the collateral sciences of medicine, particularly in Anatomy, Chemistry, Botany & the materia medica. ~~This must be admit-~~

~~to~~ But as the Objections to the certain-ty of medicine are aimed chiefly ~~to~~ at the limited state of our knowledge of the Art of healing, exclusive of Surgery, I shall con-fine myself to a short detail of the diseases in which medicine af-fords certain & almost universal relief. —

These are ~~Fevers of all kinds~~ ~~Yet it must be said here~~ I know it will be said here that fevers are often fatal. This ~~cannot~~ must happen while so many circumstances ~~oppose~~

5 The universal ~~bane~~ disease ~~the scourge of~~ ~~fatal~~ ~~deadly~~ in every case, the reproach of medicine now ~~unfortunate embraces~~ ~~true the words of~~ yields ~~Dr Mead,~~ in every case to mercury.

from the ignorance ~~&~~ fears & poverty of patients opposed regular & just practice, but where these circumstances do not occur, fevers are as much under the command of medicine as the itch, or the small pox. —

2 of the diseases which affect the nervous ~~diseases~~ hysteria, madness, the Hysteria, the Hippocondriasis, ~~and~~ the locked Jaw, and several other convulsive affections are all more or less subject to medicine ~~when~~ it is applied in this recent State.

4 Cutaneous diseases yield in almost every instance to the power of medicine.

3rd Hemorrhages & Dropsies in every part of the body ~~have been~~ are daily prevented, or cured.

~~The [illegible]~~ It is true the

practice in some of those diseases, is not uniformly successful. ~~Some Physicians~~ But the fault ~~be~~ here lies with Physicians, & not in the Science of medicine.

It is no objection to the certainty and usefulness of the compass, that the natives of Kamscatska still navigate their vessels by ~~long-~~ coasting, ~~-ging & leaf-house~~, nor does the characters ~~of~~ used by the Chinese in writing call in question the advantages of the summary mode of conveying ideas ~~picking words~~ by means of an alphabet.

I contend for the certainty of the science of medicine abstractly considered, not for the certainty of its practice ~~that knowledge which of the~~

~~profession~~ as it is exercised by ~~many~~ Physicians. In many things conspire to prevent the ~~advantages of the~~ discoveries which have been made in medicine from becoming generally useful; such particularly as the want of reading & observation among Physicians, and an ~~indis-~~ unwillingness ~~positive~~ to adopt new and unpopular remedies. ~~which are recommended by persons were instructed in~~ ~~to whose merit they are unwilling to do homage.~~ But this does not militate against the certainty of medicine, any more than

The certainty of medicine is often limited by the want of fidelity or punctuality in patients in complying with the prescriptions of their physicians, & ~~in sickly seasons~~ by the inability of Physicians in sickly seasons to visit their patients ~~at~~ at those hours in which alone their prescriptions can be applied with success. — The ~~mortality~~ prevalence of error in medicine ~~in a city or~~ moreover ~~counting~~ sometimes ~~often~~ prevents ~~offects the influence~~ & successful ~~of~~ practice in a city or country, for as ~~from~~ Physicians of numerous minds often diffuse rays of

a man's shutting his eyes at noon day militates against the the arguments in favor of the existence of light. — But ~~fourthly~~ again,

It is said ~~that Medicine~~ by the enemies of ~~medicine~~ our profession that Surgery is a more certain ~~in the relief it affords~~ & therefore more useful than medicine. This Opinion is general, but a little reflection will shew that it is not just. ~~The Objects of Surgery compared with those of medicine are in the ratio of one to twenty, of course the~~ How different is

knowledge into sick rooms which they are not permitted to enter, so Physicians of ~~Death avoiding~~ a contrary character often spread their errors by means of their patients ~~or pupils~~ into rooms, where they defeat the best concerted plans of cure, & thus lessen the ~~appearance of certainty~~ credit & success of medicine.

~~[The mortality produced by all~~ ~~of diseases~~ ~~these causes does not detract from the certainty of medicine, for it be=longs to the perfection of our science to predict death with certainty from the neglect of proper remedies applied in ~~their~~ a proper time, ~~or~~ manner, as much as it ~~for~~ to cure diseases.] —

Consultations are a further source

the issue of amputation or cutting for the stone, to Inoculation for the small pox? & How far are subject to the diseases which ren=
=der the former Operations necessary to save life? whereas the small pox affects the whole human Race, & according to some writers destroys a 6th part of all who are seized with it in the natural way. But Surgery is not an independant Art. It borrows much of its certainty & useful=
=ness from medicine, ~~[illegible]~~

of the Uncertainty of ~~medicine~~ our profession. The boldness in practice which is inspired by the Union of reason and experience in a man of genius, is often ~~defeated~~ frustrated by the ~~mechanical~~ formalities of an old, ~~and~~ or by the timidity ~~or teaching of~~ a young Physician, by which means medicine is often robbed of its merited & well earned honors. But there are frequently two, or more methods of curing the same disease. Now in Consultations between Physicians who have been in the habit of curing the same disease by different remedies, no fixed plan of cure is adopted, & the patient dies, under a half way practice between two methods, either of which might have cured him, had it been pursued

particularly from Bleeding, Diet Bark, wine and Opium.

I have said that the Uncertainty of medicine has sometimes been admitted by Physicians. It may be useful in this place to inquire into the causes of this seeming candor in the members of our profession. It appears to originate in Indolence, or a disposition too torpid to enquire into the extent and certainty of the principles of medicine: ~~the body in this case encroaches upon the~~

to its full extent. The mortality of diseases, produced by all these causes, does not detract from the certainty of medicine, for it belongs to the perfection of our science, to predict death with certainty from the neglect, or misapplication of remedies, as much it does to cure diseases.

It has been said that there is no certainty in the operation of medicines. This opertion is founded upon a superficial view of the power of ~~the~~ medicines, & an ignorance of the laws of the Animal oeconomy. - I grant that ~~to vomit~~ Ipecacuana will not always excite a vomiting, nor Jalap, violently discharge the contents of the

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A superstitious respect for preceptors in medicine, and for eminent Physicians has contributed very much to prevent ~~lessen~~ ~~the attainment of proper confidence in the~~ in certainty of medicine. There are few diseases more easily explained, or more certainly cured, than the internal Dropsy of the brain in its early stage, but it is generally considered as incurable, only ~~only~~ because Dr Cullen has not classed it among inflammatory diseases, and because Dr Monroe has declared that he never cured a case of it in his life. —

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7

mind, & abstracts from it all its natural activity.

3rd Incapacity is another source of scepticism in medicine. men deny the existence of truths which they are unable to comprehend.

4th Envy in the 4th place shuts the mind up against believing in the ~~the truths~~ certainty of medicine, more especially when discoveries are made in it by persons who are competitors for business or fame.

5th Vanity has a large share of influence in disposing Physicians

bowels, ~~but this does not invalidate the uncertainty of their characters of medicines~~, ~~for~~ but if we are able to account for the failure of their ~~till in all cases the~~ operation, ~~in all cases~~ we ~~destroy~~ refute the objection to the ~~the~~ uncertainty of their characters as medicines. We now know that ~~an~~ inflammation, ~~or~~ and congestion in the brain impart a torpor to the stomach & alimentary canal, and this knowledge constitutes a part of the uncertainty of medicine for which I am contending. Thus a knowledge of the variations of the ~~comp~~ magnetic needle in certain latitudes constitutes a part of the perfection of the science of navigation. — go back to p. 6.

to deny the certainty of medicine.
~~a drawness. This~~ Scepticism in
medicine presupposes ~~that~~ a Physician
has examined the ~~evidences of~~ arguments in
favor of certain
opinions, and that his decision
is founded upon a defect of evidence
to support them. now this being
seldom the case, the decision ~~is~~
should by no means operate against the certainty of medicine.
go to p. 12.
~~an act of imposture equally~~
~~characteristic~~
~~Declaratory of vanity & impudence.~~
~~I have sometimes~~ Did these
medical sceptics when they
speak of the uncertainty of
medicine, confine themselves

to the first person of the singular number, they ~~had~~ would be more excusable, but when they include the whole profession by declaiming as they often do upon difficult subjects that "we know no=thing about them" they ~~discover a degree~~ add to their vanity a large share of impudence.

~~A~~ 6th Source of Infidelity is prejudice in religion. — men who have renounced the evidence of their reason & senses upon moral & theological subjects, ~~are~~ cannot be consistent ~~upon~~

[without denying their evidence upon medical subjects. This Scepticism in medicine is extremely flattering to the Sceptics in Religion; and hence we find ~~Deistical physi=~~ ~~=cians are often preferred by them.~~ ~~They~~ It is natural for such persons to conclude that if, in a science ~~to~~ ~~all~~ whose facts are obvious to our senses, there is ~~so~~ no certainty; equal or greater uncertainty must hang over the doctrines of Christianity] —

Having pointed out the sources ~~from classes so important~~ of Scepticism in medicine, ~~it will~~ among Physicians, I shall only

~~be natural to expect the most~~
~~impure streams. The most obvious~~
mention one of its ~~most obvious~~ effects,
and that is the most palpable
brand. With what face does ~~cass~~
a Physician charge for services
which he has rendered at random
to his patients? Why does not
the ~~his~~ hand of a Physician tremble in writing
a prescription for a disease
of which he confesses himself to
be ignorant? And with what face does
a Physician ~~has~~ ~~a Physician~~ charge for services
which he has rendered at ran-
-dom to his patients? ~~Should~~
~~we employ an artifi~~ Should an

V

~~J. Lancaster of~~ A Clergyman in One of the West India Islands ~~who~~ was sent for, from a Card table to visit One of his parishoners who was dying, & who it was told him was in great distress about his future state. The Clergyman visited him, and upon returning to his Seat at the Card table, was ~~ask~~ asked by One of the company how he had left ~~him~~ the dying man. He said "quite happy" for he had removed all his fears in a moment by letting him into the secret." — "What secret" said the gentleman — "why — that there is no future state answered the Clergyman,

artificer after failing in ~~building~~ erecting a piece of machinery ~~a bonnet, till his employer,~~ ~~that he knew dress and payer~~ till his employer that he was ignorant of the business he had undertaken, ~~would be~~ what should we think of him? would ~~be~~ we justify an extravagant charge for his labor, or would we not rather approve of that sentence of a Court, which should ~~compel~~ punish him as an Impostor ~~bas~~ by "compelling him to make "restitution" for the money he had ignorantly expended.? ✓

~~Let the sceptic in medicine act~~

and that religion was all nothing but a fable. equally criminal is that Physician who ~~denies the certainty~~ exercises the profession ~~of medicine~~ of medicine, and denies its certainty in most of ~~the~~ the dis: -cases which come under his notice.

I have ~~known~~ heard of a Physician ~~to whom~~ ~~to~~ of extensive business & reputation to ~~all~~ whom ~~all that has been said upon~~ all the causes of Scepticism in medicine, that have ~~th of that~~ been enumerated, applied in the most extensive manner. ~~His reputation~~ This man's education was originally ~~very~~ slender, and his reading extremely limited. ~~His visits to his patients were short, & be generally~~ all subjects were

~~honestly. If he cannot attain to principles in it, let him resign the profession. He is a~~

~~A Speculative Sceptic in medicine may be not an honest man, but a sceptical physician who exercises the profession for his subsistence is as much an Impostor as a Person who exercises the functions of a Priest without believing in the principles of Christianity.~~

We have already attained to certainty in at least 9 diseases out of ~~Ten~~ ten. But this remnant of ~~parts~~ the premature dominion of death

more agreeable to him than medicine. He hurried from sick rooms to public dinners, and tea parties, where he usually spent four or five hours of every day. ~~and yet with this thama-tis, he decided upon all subjects of controversy he maintained from me~~ ~~He~~ In all companies he spoke with contempt of the profession of medicine - and laughed at every attempt to apply ~~the~~ reason to it. And yet with this character, he ~~maintained~~ governed for many years the medical opinions & practice of the city in which he lived. A Brother Impostor

over the human body, shall not al=
=ways continue. Absolute certainty
I believe
is attainable in medicine. [Yes - there
does not exist a disease for which
there does not exist a remedy. -
This must be true, or God would
not be ~~kind as~~ wise, powerful or good. ~~ought~~
Hear this ye friends & Benefactors
~~of~~ mankind, who ~~have~~ sighed in
secret over the ~~pain~~ misery which
diseases ~~have~~ produce in our world.
- ~~They~~ This misery shall have an end.
~~Death shall be~~ The empire of death
by means of disease shall shall
one day be limited, & old age shall

in medicine pronounced his Elogium when he died, by declaring "that he was the greatest physician that ever lived, for that he knew & acknowledged the Uncertainty of his profession!" —

I will moreover be able by means of this knowledge ~~to be~~ ~~& be led to prefer~~ ~~able~~ to distinguish ~~real physicians~~ rational & philosophical physicians, & to prefer them to Quacks and Impostors.

finally be the only 17 outlet of human life.

This certainty ~~perfection in the science of~~ ~~medicine I believe~~ will probably be brought about in the ~~the~~ following ways. —

1 ~~The~~ A knowledge of ~~medi~~ the prin-ciples of medicine will become so general that the people at large by knowing, will avoid the remote, predisposing & exciting causes of diseases. They

2 The principles & ~~procep~~ operations of Chemistry will be so enlarged, as to enable mankind ~~by heat to~~ ~~nicture~~ to destroy the active qualities of the remote causes of diseases by ~~the~~ those powerful

agents - heat & mixture. - al-
-ready has Chemistry taught us many
things upon this subject. It has
taught us that fire will destroy
the contagion of the small pox,
water the ~~miasmata &~~ contagions
and miasmata
of the plague & yellow fever. I
have heard a gentleman of a
philosophical character in London
ridiculed for saying that he believed
"the time would come when a
man should be able to put his
head in the fire without being
burnt". I do not think there is
or extravagant
any thing unphilosophical in

v knowledge it has been justly said is power, and philosophy is the empire of art over na-
ture. — Dr Mitchell of New York ~~in a late~~ ~~publication~~ has suggested many ingenious hints upon the subjects of the gases which may lead us to the certain means of destroying them, & thereby of exterminating malignant ~~& contagious~~ fevers from

the opinion. ~~The~~ ~~Did~~ we not see men breath & ~~co~~ act as moral under water by means of the diving bell? To breath & to ~~act~~ live under water by means of a diving bell, and to fly through the regions of the Air in a balloon, ~~a century ago~~ would have been thought equally improbable events a cen=tury ago. V. I have long beli=ev'd that ~~the pri~~ such of prophecies as relate to the ~~fta~~ future changes in natural state of man, and of our earth, will be brought ~~of~~ about by natural means. There is to me therefore nothing

the catalogue of human evils.

+ Luke X. 19.

By a Belief in the Unity of disease, and of debility being the predisposing cause of all its different forms will lead both patients & physicians to attack them in their forming state, at which ~~th~~ time they ~~often~~ generally yield to the most simple medicines. But where diseases come on as some do, without the premonitory Symp:=toms of debility, ~~the does the if we may judge from~~ there is reason to ~~say~~ believe they may be cured if we are permitted to judge ~~of what~~ from what is passed, that which ~~what~~ is to come. go to p 22

improbable in that "declaration of our Saviour to his disciples, in which he says "Behold, I give you power to tread on serpents, & scorpions and all the power of the enemy, & nothing shall by any means hurt you" whether ~~it~~ the Declaration be viewed by a philosophical, or a christian eye. ~~It was~~ There can be no=thing in the poison of serpents or scorpions, more ~~so~~ destructive to life than arsenic, and yet that deadly mineral we know is rendered harmless by being com=bined with sulphur.

V. ~~Knowledge says D Franklin is power. Corporate Philosophy says Lord Bacon is the expiring of~~

~~Art over compise nature~~.

~~3o Diseases shall~~

The 3rd and last method in which medicine shall ~~a~~ be brought to perfection will be, ~~that~~ diseases will in all cases yield to medicine. ~~Then~~ The diseases which we call=not cure, I have said are very few compared with those which do cure, ~~and~~ Nor is this all, the diseases which still elude the ~~a~~ skill of Physicians are by no means so formidable, as those which have been subdued by them. The Epilepsy

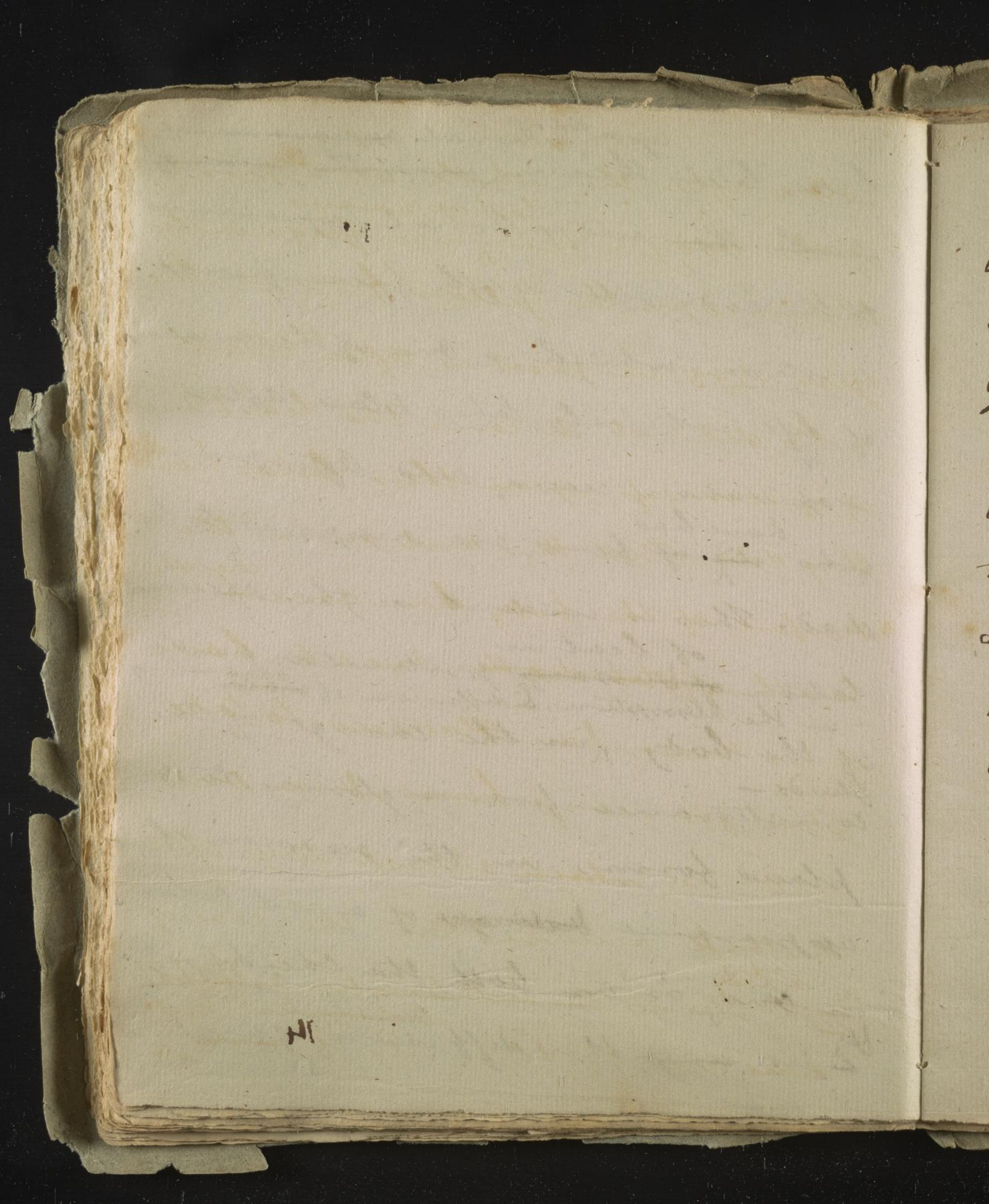
offers much less violence to the system than a yellow fever, and this disease we now know is daily cured ~~by~~ not only by Physicians, but by ~~the~~ nurses, other persons, ~~an~~ acquainted with medicine and ~~free livers~~. ~~within the last twenty years the~~ Our faith & hopes upon this subject, derive great encouragement from the triumphs of medicine within the last twenty years. ~~Fevers~~ ~~The~~ Fevers are much less mortal ~~by~~ ~~the difference between 2 & 30~~ now than they were 30 years ago. The Lochid Law has ~~ceased to~~ ceased

in some measure to be the terror of the planters in the ~~general~~ those West India Islands in which the tonic remedies have been adopted. The pulmonary consumption has been cured where a belief of its being a chronic pleurisy has led to the ~~early use of~~ early use of copious, or frequent use of blood letting. Dropsies & hemorrhages have been much less fatal since they have been considered & treated as symptoms of a general fever. The gout is no longer considered as the reproach of our art. It has

yielded to the same remedies as the different states of fever. Cancers are as easily prevented as any other disease by the ~~have lately been discovered in a~~ early extirpation of tumors, in glandular parts of the ~~great degree of their over deadly influence upon human life by means of a medicine which ap=pears to act specifically upon the extreme vessels thereby dis=posing them to a new healthy action.~~ body. But ~~these~~ modern dis=coveries have gone further. They have taught us to review the motions of life where they appeared ~~to~~ be extinguished by

death. Hitherto ~~[illegible]~~ resuscita-
tion has been confined only to
persons who have ~~died long~~ been
supposed to be dead from Drowning
or by from other accidents. But the time
I believe will come, when the
labors of Science & humanity will
be employed in recovering persons
who appear to die from ~~fevers~~
many other causes. [& particularly
~~from fevers~~] we are authorized to adopt
this opinion ~~not~~ by the ~~process~~ discoveries
which have lately been made of the
~~cause~~ production of animal life by stimuli,
and by the light ~~which~~ observations & dissections

have lately thrown upon the external ~~appearances of~~ ~~upon the~~ ~~causes of~~ ~~death the~~ and internal appearances of the body after death from fevers. motion which is one of the operations of life, certainly takes place after respiration ceases, and after persons who have had ~~die of~~ fevers, are supposed to be dead. This is evident in the accumulation of heat in ~~of the trans~~ postient as parts in the absorption, or diffusion of ~~water~~ stagnating of the body in the change of the fluids — countenance from a gloomy, to a plaid form, in the occasional appearance ~~Hectisaps~~ of a red color in one, or in both the cheeks, — & a in ~~any~~ the diffusion of a yellow



color after the whole, or a part of the body. This last appearance was frequently observed in the yellow fever in the year 1793 in persons after death who did not discover the least tinge of yellowness upon their bodies before they died. But this motion in the surface of the body has gone off ~~after death~~. Sweats have sometimes been observed to take place for many hours, & in one instance ~~which~~ several days after death. It occurred in the case of a Lady ~~Miss Henry the celebrated actress~~ ~~last winter~~ in 1794 ~~who~~ the died in this city of

marical state of fever. The
Stiffness of the Limbs which so
soon succeeds death, is probably
in many cases, the effect of ~~tow~~ general
convulsion, and may hereafter
be discovered to be nothing but a
chronic Spasm of the muscular
System. — The internal appear-
-ances of the body after death
from fevers, still more favour the
idea of the possibility of extending
the benefits of resuscitation to the
persons ~~cases~~ supposed to be dead from ~~fever~~.
those diseases. ~~[Many disputations~~
~~there the origin visual to be proved~~

excep

Death from fevers I shall say here=
=after occurs from one of the three
following causes. ~~viz~~ namely: 1 The ~~effusion of~~
disorganization of parts
~~blood serum or blood into organs~~
whose actions are essential to
life by excess of morbid excitement, congestion, ~~fever~~ in=
~~the effusion of blood~~
=flammation, or mortification.
2ly from such a change in the fluids
as renders them unfit for the
purposes of life, and 3ly ~~lastly~~ from
the ~~total~~ exausted state of the excite=
=ment & excitability of the system
which renders it incapable of
being acted upon by the stimulus
of medicine. Death from the

two last causes rarely occurs in acute fevers which terminate in 3, 5, 7, 9, or 11 days. Dissections shew, that in nearly all cases of ~~fever~~ Death from fevers, the viscera are in a state of ~~inflammatio~~ disorganization, but in many cases this disorganization is very trifling, & in some cases in which marks of congestion have appeared in the viscera during sickness, there are no appearances of disorder after death. Now in all these cases of small disorganization, or of the total absence of it, the remedies for reanscitation might probably be used with success,

for the excitement ~~of~~ of the system is suspended only, and not exhausted, and therefore might, by proper means be ~~seen~~ easily restored. I suspect this ~~to be the cases case~~, to take place in all those cases in which death occurs in the paroxysm of a fever, or in the sudden absence of fever, & ~~in~~ after the use of powerful Emetics or purges, or too stimulating diet.

Under the influence of these opi=
=nions, I am disposed to believe that ~~millions~~ many thousands of people ~~who have~~ have been buried alive in all ages & in all countries. —

~~Is~~ were it possible for

us to be ignorant of the waking state which necessarily follows sleep, we should consider the restoration of a ~~human creature~~ man from a recumbent posture ~~prostrate state~~, in which most of all the functions of the body, & all the faculties of the mind were sus=pended, to ~~account~~ the sudden use of his reason and limbs, as an event equally ~~incredible~~ improbable with the resuscitation of a body apparently dead from a fever. — go to p: 35

Sacred history does not inform us which of the prog=enitors

of the human race was the longest
lives, but I have sometimes
thought the Survivors

In the 4th vol: of my medical
~~was introductory~~ lectures
~~year~~ Inquiries & Observations
~~of last~~ I mentioned an opinion
of Dr Hastings upon the subject of
the ~~advancement of medicine to~~ propagation of christianity by
means of the Science of medicine
to which I ~~then~~ yield my full
consent. He supposes that the
healing art will be brought to
such perfection that missionaries
into pagan & mohamidan countries
shall recommend & establish
the doctrines of christianity by

V already has this prediction of Dr Hartley's
in part
accomplished. For one

performing ~~similar~~ cures by natural means, such as the apostles performed by supernatural power. — Yes — I believe they will not only ~~cure the plagues, and~~ "heal all manner of diseases", but that they will by means equally natural, raise persons who are supposed to be ~~the~~ dead. — These triumphs over sickness & the grave, will not be easily or cheaply accomplished. ~~without a great expense of labor & position~~ ~~exposition~~ They will probably ~~expose~~ subject the authors of them to the same reproachful epithets to which

they exposed the apostles, for they will be equally contrary to received opinions & prejudices. But the worst minds that shall dare to ~~combat~~ from the grasp ~~the~~ death his cold ~~with descend into the cold regions~~ ~~of~~ and breathless prey, shall ~~not~~ have no dread of persecution. They shall rejoice in it]. —

~~In contemplating these~~ the ~~This~~ view of the approaching perfection of the heaving gent. which I have given dictated by ~~my wishes~~ ~~or imagination~~ ~~wrought~~ ~~with desire for the happiness~~ my wishes alone. It is alike consonant to reason and revelation. In

contemplating the ~~delightful~~ change
it will introduce into the state of
our world, the heart swells with
the most delightful emotions.
Then shall ~~no other~~ mortal
~~pes~~ ~~no~~ ~~sorrow shall~~ pestilences
cease to desolate our cities. Hos-
-pitals shall cease to be perpetual
& Lazarettos the gen^n of fever and tears shall
prisons to the sick. — ~~Tears shall~~
no longer ~~cease to~~ follow ~~fr~~ relations & friends to a
~~cease to flow~~ ~~The lingering~~ pains
premature grave.
~~of~~ Tand grief for the premature
death of friends & relations, shall
then
be known no more. Here I am
tempted to repine at the present
limited duration of human life.
Long before this ~~happy era~~ revolution in

the health & happiness of mankind shall arrive, ~~we shall~~ you & I yet shall be no more. — But a con=solation is still left us under the pressure of this mortifying thot. — If we cannot share in the hap=piness which we have ~~antici~~ destined for our posterity, we can at least contribute to produce it, by devo=ting our time & talents to the improvement of our science. [The we have lately shaken off an immense load of prejudices and error upon the subject of Govern=ment. Let us do the same thing

with prejudice of error in medicine.

~~Let us abandon the humble barques in which we have hugged the shore, and venture upon voyages of circumnavigation in uncharted seas~~ many new remedies remain yet to be ~~tried~~ discovered, and the extent of force of ~~old~~ ones, remain yet to be determined by new experiments.

~~The Earth~~ Baths of water, oil, air and even, Earth have hitherto been but feebly & partially applied in diseases. ~~we are acquainted with~~ but our knowledge of the ~~extreme~~ force of heat, or ~~Epastics~~ ispastics in which I include Caustics & boiling water as

v The ~~active~~ benefits ~~to be derived~~
~~from~~ of the proper direction of the
~~active principles~~ faulties of the mind, &
~~above all~~ particularly ~~from~~ of the
principle of association remain
yet to be ~~examined~~ applied to
medicine.

well as ~~Spanish~~ blistering flies ~~as~~ in exciting the system is as yet limited by ancient habits & forms of prescription. Frictions, Exercise & even Labor, as remedies are equally administred by ancient measure. ~~It becomes us to~~ ~~Let us~~ forget all that we learned upon these & other articles of the Materia medica, and ~~take them again~~ to prescribe them in doses ~~and~~ that shall accord with our present systems of medicine. We have too long hugged the our native shores ~~of ignorance & prejudice~~ in medicine. Let us attempt a voyage of circumnavigation in medicine. The sweep which has lately attended the

V and mercury ~~whic~~ once so ~~formidable~~ terrifying to sick people, has become in many families, a common domestic medicine. ~~Let us be encouraged by the~~

more general & copious use & necessity
~~extension~~ of the remedies of blood letting
in malignant fevers,
in ~~this city~~, should encourage us
similar intrepidity in the
to ~~the more liberal~~ use of other
remedies. — The prejudices against
the lancet ~~will wear~~ now sleeps with
the fears which formerly prevailed
against cool air, & cold water in
fevers, for the same ~~we~~ Physicians
~~with boasted the perfection~~ with honor
who a few years ago beheld a
stream of blood flowing from the
~~with~~ in certain fevers,
arm of a patient, ~~with a flood of~~
it was ill or harm
because forbidden by Cullen & Brown
now, prescribe the loss of pounds
of blood in the same fevers with
=out fear, and with nearly univer=
=sal success. —

To ensure the certainty that appr^n of those Mo.
has been predicted in medicine,
it will be necessary to investigate
and establish principles in our
Science. ~~Dod to~~ Was it possible
for a Physician to attain to
the "antidiluvian age, & to ~~acht~~
~~a certain~~ collect facts during
the whole of that time, they
would be useless to him Un=
=less they were ~~connected by~~ combined &
arranged by means of "princi=
=ples of some kind. Experience
without ~~the~~ "philosophy in

v *Senses* are employed to judge between truth & error. — Connected

medicine, is nothing but empi=
=ricism, and however much the
contradictions of theories, or the Uncertainty of human Reason in
medicine complained of, I ~~maintained~~ am satisfied
that there are more contradic=
tions to be met with in books
upon ~~the~~ those Subjects ~~of~~ in which ~~the~~
~~obvious to the senses of Physicians~~.

~~There are in all professions certain~~
~~cant~~ words which are used to
impose upon the credulity of
mankind. Conscience ~~religion~~,
honor ~~is war~~, and liberty ~~is~~
~~have been the~~ long been employed
~~governments have all been em=~~
=ployed

for this purpose in religion — laws, & government] ~~The~~ ~~tissue~~ Experience has been the prosti=tute of medicine]. [connected with ~~theory~~ principles the science of medicine, ~~it~~ may be compared to the ~~stately~~ pillars of a magnificent building, but without them, it resembles the materials of the same build=ing scattered in a confused man=ner in a yard, so that the relation of ~~no one~~ none of them to each other can be known. It is by means of principles in medicine that a Physician can practise with

safety to his ~~practice~~ patients or satisfaction to himself. — They impart cautious bold=ness ~~to~~ alternately to all his prescriptions. They ~~enable him~~ ~~inspire him~~ ~~to unfold the difficu~~ ~~with confidence in~~ supply the want of experience in all new cases. — ~~They depute him above~~ ~~fatigue~~ teach him to look down upon the hasty dulness ~~of~~ and pomp of medicine ~~prescriptions~~ ~~and impudence of Quacks, and impostors, whether they exer=cise their Arts with, or without diplomas.~~ They elevate him above fatigue, and support him under the drudgery & mor=tifications

of the profession. — Between such a Physician, and the mere plodder in medicine, there is the same difference, that there was between Sir Isaac Newton after he com=pleted his discoveries in light & colors, and the Artist who manu=factured the glasses by which that illustrious philosopher ~~established~~ exemplified his principles in optics. — After this account of the nupity, & advantages of principles in medicine you will not be surprised gent: at my declaring, that my duty and inclinations unite to

V. But in this arduous business, I shall not labour alone. I anticipate the most vigorous support ~~from~~ to my principles from the doctrines which will be taught from the ~~chemical~~ chair of Chemistry & materia medica by my colleagues ~~now possessed~~ Dr Wood & Dr Barton = house. ~~I congratulate~~ the late Gent. ~~upon their appointment~~. I know ~~his~~ the talents & qualifications of those gentlemen ~~to be equal to~~ their, & I am not afraid to promise for them that they will not disappoint the expectations of their friends & the public. =

We live Gent. in a revolutionary age. Medicine has caught the spirit of the times. The system of Dr Boerhaave which had subjugated the greatest part of Europe & all America, yielded about 30 years ago to the system of Dr Cullen. ~~Its triumph was of short duration~~

as far as possible determine me to teach the ~~theory~~ of medicine from this Chair. I know the difficulty of the Under-taking. ~~The Physicians of Great Britain~~ This great man's empire in medicine, ~~have~~ has ~~long and recently divided~~ lately been disputed & diminished by the ingenious Dr. ~~between the systems of Dr Brown~~ Brown. ~~Dr Cullen & Dr Brown. The have, of them~~ ~~One is altogether erroneous, and the one of them is altogether true~~ ~~It shall be my business to as far as I shall endeavour, to expose~~ ~~their~~ the errors, & to establish the truths contained in ~~each of them~~ each of these systems ~~I shall also to supply their defects~~ by the detail of principles which

business ~~and business~~, I shall not labour alone. I anticipate ~~both~~ a vigorous ~~instruction and~~ support from the to my principles, doctrines which will be taught ~~by~~ ~~my former pupil~~ pupil ~~from~~ the chemical chair by my ~~the Professor of Chemistry, who will~~ former pupil Dr Woodhouse.

~~to our~~ I congratulate you Gent.[2] ~~& the whole republic of science~~ I know upon his appointment. His talents & qualifications ~~are~~ to be equal to it and I ~~I will~~ not afraid to promise for him that he will not disappoint the expectations of his friends or the public.

We live in a revolutionary age. Medicine has happily caught the spirit of the times. Dr Brown has demolished the systems of his immediately predecessor Dr Cullen, ~~but be~~ without substituting ~~thing~~ better one in its room.

have been the result of the obser=
=vations, and, — [I am not
ashamed thus publickly to acknow=
=ledge,] of the mistakes both in
principle & practice, of ~~fifty and~~ ~~seven~~ ~~eighty~~ ~~endeavors~~
~~near forty~~ ~~thirty~~ years. — ~~In this difficult~~

[But who am I, or what
were my Fathers, that I should thus
attempt to teach new principles in
~~prescribing to expose a single tooth,~~
medicine?
~~or to establish a single truth in~~
~~medicine?~~ — Ascribe not the
~~or faculty~~
boldness of the Undertaking, ~~to or~~
~~the faculty of its execution~~, to any
thing in the faculties of my mind
gent: different, or superior to
your own, but resolve it wholly

into the sovereign pleasure of that Being, who often makes use of weak in=
=struments to accomplish the purposes of his Goodness to man=
=kind, in order ~~that~~ thereby to prevent a competition for the honor of such events, between his power and that ~~talents~~ of his creatures. Thus a ~~few~~ Shepard's boy with a sling and a stone, destroyed the ~~pride and~~ strength & pride of a formidable Army, and thereby became the instrument of saving a ~~whole~~ nation] —

From a review of the subject

From a review of the subject of this lecture
of this lecture, Gent: I ~~am~~ natu=
=rally led to conclude ~~with by ad=~~ with
=~~dressing to you a few articles~~ the
following reflections. —

1 ~~If~~ Has certainty been attained
in the cure of ~~any~~ a part of the diseases of the human body,
~~to be~~ then ~~can~~
study those diseases, & their remedies
carefully, otherwise you will be crimi=
=nal in not being able to cure them.
~~There~~ ~~Physicians are ~~all~~ always culpable~~

~~who~~
2 If certainty attainable in the cure
of all diseases, then renounce every
pursuit that ~~should~~ can interfere with
~~your studies, and~~ your exertions ~~endeavours~~ to
~~reduce the number of those diseases~~ lessen their mortality.

~~which still~~ It has long been a subject of controversy among Divines, whether perfection be attainable in morals. ~~in this world~~. — ~~It is~~ However this controversy may be decided, I am sure the belief of it is calculated to advance moral order & happiness in the world. In like manner a belief in the certainty of ~~medicine~~ ~~our profession~~ medicine, is calculated to promote its improvement & perfection. ~~in medicine.~~ ~~the~~ the ~~perfection of our profession~~.

Much of your future ~~happ~~ success & comfort in Life depend upon the manner in which you employ the approaching season for instruction. I have heard

It said that every barrel of sugar manufactured in the West Indies costs a human life. — with equal certainty I fear it may be said, that every dollar and evening that ~~is~~ are idly or improperly spent by a student of Physic at ~~a~~ ~~place of pu~~ ~~Circus or theatre~~, will cost the life of a patient. ~~Shall~~ It is not my business to decide upon the morality or immorality of ~~these~~ public amusements, but as far as they employ money that might be applied to purchase medical books, or time that might be employed in reading, or ~~reviewing~~ studying ~~lectures~~ the subjects of the lectures of the day, they ~~have~~ are certainly criminal

in a ~~to the~~ student of medicine. Read qnt.
think — Observe — Observe — think
and read. — I submit all my opinions
to your strictest examination. I do
not ask, ~~for~~ nay more I ~~will not~~ Do not
wish them to be ~~their being~~ adopted,
~~admit of being~~
unless they are thoroughly examined,
and perfectly understood. With these
remarks ~~declaration~~, I resume the labors &
studies of the winter. I have only to
~~humbly hoping~~
~~imploring the great Disposer of men,~~
~~that it may please the Father of~~
add my best wishes that we may each of us be
~~success to conduct each of us, under~~
conducted by the hand of heaven, this course of lectures
to the conclusion of ~~our~~ course in
the same ~~state of health~~ comfortable circumstances of health in which
& other things we have begun it. —

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